



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
OFFICE OF CAMPAIGN & POLITICAL FINANCE

ONE ASHBURTON PLACE, ROOM 411

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02108

(617) 727-8352

(800) 462-OCPF

MARY F. McTIGUE  
DIRECTOR

May 23, 1994  
AO-94-16

Representative Paul J. Gannon  
State House - Room 446  
Boston, MA 02133-1053

Re: Purchase of computer

Dear Representative Gannon:

This letter is in response to your April 22, 1994 request for an advisory opinion regarding the legality of an expenditure by your political committee for a computer.

You have stated that you would like to purchase a computer with political campaign funds, and that the computer would be used for constituent services only.

For the reasons which follow, your committee's purchase would be consistent with M.G.L. c. 55, the campaign finance law.

M.G.L. c. 55, s. 6 states that a political committee organized on behalf of a candidate for state legislator:

may receive, pay and expend money or other things of value for the enhancement of the political future of the candidate . . . , for which the committee was organized so long as such expenditure is not primarily for the candidate's or any other person's personal use, . . . [emphasis added].

Section 379 of Chapter 133 of the Acts of 1992 amended Section 6 to specifically exclude expenses related to constituent and legislative services from the term "personal use." The statute now provides:

For the purposes of this section the term "personal use" shall not include expenses relating to the provision of constituent or legislative services. . . .

Therefore, Section 6 now allows campaign funds to be used to pay for a computer which will be used to provide constituent services.<sup>1</sup>

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1. You should note that the committee would have to be reimbursed, at fair market value, for any incidental personal use of the computer.

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This opinion is based solely on the representations made in your letter and has been rendered solely in the context of M.G.L. c. 55.

Please do not hesitate to contact this office if you have any additional questions.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Mary F. McTigue".

Mary F. McTigue  
Director

MFM/cp